

# SEEDS OF AFRICA

Seeds of Africa Foundation is a community enhancement and development program that works with children, young adults and their families in Africa. We are committed to stimulating economic and cultural development by supporting and inspiring its young citizens and future leaders. Our vision is to provide an environment where communities in Africa have the opportunity not only to sustain but to flourish. This process is facilitated in a variety of ways from providing basic needs, such as school supplies and food to the students; to more complex procedures such as building libraries to enhance the lives of the community at large. We are starting with the 'seeds' and nourishing them so they can achieve their maximum potential in school now, with the hope they will in turn give back to their community in the future. The seeds are children who are excelling in their studies; however, their families do not have the means to support their most fundamental needs.



Those of us privileged enough to be educated cannot fathom the burden of illiteracy. Add to that burden a life lived with unimaginable levels of poverty and struggle and the mind reels. For those familiar with the sociopolitical landscape in Africa today, our challenges may seem daunting. Make no mistake – the opportunities of education far outweigh the effort and investment required. By offering scholarships under our seeding education project, we are bringing new hope to children and communities alike. We are just beginning our work in Ethiopia. And with your help, we will continue to spread this hope to many more throughout the continent.

## MISSION

Our mission is to provide stimulation, inspiration and hope for the hungry minds of children who have little or no exposure to a larger world of possibilities.

The seeding education is a program designed to help students already excelling in their studies. Implemented in January 2008, it focuses on making sure these bright students stay in school and continue to stand out in educational and personal development. The program currently has 15 students from one public school, Adama Fana Elementary School, in Nazareth, Ethiopia, with the students ranging between 6 and 13 years old.

## PHASE I

### Each student is provided with:

- Financial support for school fees
- School supplies
- Food
- After school study (*tutorial sessions*)
- Medical support

With your help we plan on increasing the number of students that are in this program.

## Phase II

**Seeds of Africa Community Center** – With the launch of our **GREENPRINT** campaign , we will be opening our center in Nazareth, Ethiopia in Fall of 2009.

### PHASE III

**Seeding Education for the High School and University Bound** - a financial scholarship program and tutorial support for students currently enrolled or planning to enroll in high school and university level courses.

**Camp Hope** – a residential learning center and summer camp.

**Library projects** – a project focusing on improving existing libraries and building new ones within Ethiopia.

**Peer to peer programs** – a program we want to implement between children in elementary schools here in the U.S. and in Ethiopia. It is a program that will help children understand what life is like in other parts of the world.

### A LITTLE DONATION GOES A LONG WAY...



# GreenPrint : a space to grow

Our goal is to provide a physical space in which our children have the mental space to grow into curious learners. We believe that the mind needs to be activated through experimental learning, this entails creating an environment that is conducive to cognitive exploration. The **GreenPrint** mission is to provide these exceptional children with a sustainable support system.

## GreenPrint Stages :

- . **SproutStage** : the **GreenPrint** center to be opened fall of 2009 in Nazareth, Ethiopia, will include within its parameters an independent study area, a space for instructors to work with students, a library, kitchen and dining, and a free play exploration area. The needs of the current Seeds children will be easily accommodated with room for expansion up to 50 children.
- . **BudStage** : we aim to design and build our own sustainable community center utilizing environmentally friendly materials. These would include solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable resources.
- . **FlowerStage** : our center becomes the heart of a vibrant community enabling the children, adults and all learners to expand their individual visions and creating a lasting supportive framework.

Due to over-crowded classroom environments, Ethiopia's school-aged children are unable to receive the kind of individualized focus that is the pillar of early educational development. As education is a collaborative process between students and teachers, the building of a physical space, a Seeds community center, is essential in providing the opportunity for supportive and instructive interactions to take place.

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

- Only **39%** of females and **62%** of males between ages 15 and 24 are literate
- **36%** of Ethiopia's adults are literate
- **45 %** of Ethiopia's children attend Primary School

**Seeds of Africa** gives financial support for school fees and school supplies, along with food and medical support to ensure their attendance at school.

- In Ethiopia, the pupil to faculty ratio is the highest in Africa, with an average of **72** students per teacher

**Seeds of Africa** provides after school tutoring to make certain each student receives personal attention to excel in their studies.

- **53%** of those initially enrolled are unlikely to complete primary education

**Seeds of Africa** is dedicated to assuring each child in it's program will complete their primary education.

- **23%** of females and **30%** males in Ethiopia will attend Secondary School (Grades 6 through 12)

**Seeds of Africa** provides each student the means to make certain they continue to secondary school and beyond.

- **53%** of children (5-14 years) are working

**Seeds of Africa** contributes to each student's family to ensure that the student may attend after school tutorials instead of working like over half of Ethiopia's children.

- Over **200,000** classrooms need to be built to provide access for the over **3 million** children out of school and to reduce the classroom student/teacher ratios to acceptable levels, in order for Ethiopia to meet the **Millennium Development Goal** of gender parity in primary education by 2015 (UNICEF 2006)

**Seeds of Africa** is working to help reach this goal, one child at a time.



**ATTI WORKU**  
**Founder, Seeds of Africa**

*Born and raised in Ethiopia, Atti Worku understands what it means to be a child growing up in Africa. At an early age, Atti was very involved with community programs with the support and influence of her parents, Genet Damtew and Tesfaye Worku. As community leaders and educators, Atti's parents wanted to give their children, as well as every Ethiopian child, the opportunity and chance to become educated. A common theme in Atti's house while growing up was "family influence and education." Sadly, Atti's father passed away ten years ago while he was in the midst of a project to build a public library in Nazareth, Ethiopia. With the passing of Atti's father, and her mother's continuous crusade to help educate children, Atti started Seeds of Africa.*

*While studying computer science in college, Atti started modeling and was signed with an agency in South Africa. In 2005, Atti's life was about to change forever, when she was crowned Miss Ethiopia and traveled the world to represent her country. Shortly after, she moved to the United States and currently resides in New York City.*

*Atti believes in the importance of education and wanted to start the right program to make Ethiopian children the leaders of tomorrow. Influenced by numerous educational programs, including working with Ethiopian orphans, Atti decided to start a program where she would instill the values and beliefs her parents taught her throughout her life. Atti believes she found her mission in life by dedicating her time and rigorous work ethic to making a difference in the lives of Ethiopian children through Seeds of Africa.*



**GENET DAMTEW**  
**Head of Operations, Nazareth, Ethiopia**

*Genet Damtew grew up in Nazareth, Ethiopia and has been a community leader and educator for schools and the church her entire life. Genet was raised during King Haile Silasie's monarchy and understands the sociocultural and economic discrimination women have faced throughout history. At the age of three, Genet's father passed away and shortly after her mother remarried. During this time, she was fortunate enough to attend school, which began a new era for the independence of Ethiopian women. Yet, it wasn't full independence! Traditionally, Ethiopian women had limited opportunities when it came to personal growth, education, and employment and as a whole, chose work over education.*

*Genet graduated from Addis Ababa Commercial College after she married the love of her life Tesfaye Worku, who was also a community leader and educator. Shortly after, Genet and her husband moved to an underdeveloped neighborhood in Addis Ababa and realized that a comfortable environment was needed not only for their family but the community at large. Genet and Tesfaye opened the Addis Ababa School that taught grades 1-4 and had four teachers; Tesfaye took on the role as Principal. With the establishment of this school they were encouraged to organize a community-wide initiative to build roads, provide clean water, install electricity and telephone lines, open a health clinic, and have a neighborhood market. Today if you go to the Addis Ababa School it's called Megabit 28 and teaches grades 1-8.*

*Genet currently resides in Nazareth and is known in the community as the "Model Mom." If you go to Genet's house you will understand where the term "Model Mom" comes from. As you enter her house you will notice the children and families there to learn and often times to eat a healthy meal. Throughout her life she has always helped women and children in the community. As a young Ethiopian child she remembers the instability of her home life as well as the lack of resources due to the economical challenges Ethiopia faced. With seven children (two which she adopted to extend her family), Genet wanted to give her children the opportunities that so many Ethiopians only dreamed about. Today she opens her door to children and families that are in need. Through Genet Damtew and Tesfaye Worku's influence on education, their daughter Atti decided to build a community for children through Seeds of Africa. Although there are still many challenges, Genet is very optimistic about promoting education throughout Ethiopia.*

**SIENA-ANTONIA VON  
TSCHARNER FLEMING**  
*Development Coordinator*

Siena-Antonia von Tscherner Fleming has always been interested in education and giving back to the community. While modeling, she was introduced to Atti and the two became instant friends. Siena spoke to Atti about her interest in 3rd world development and her experience studying indigenous agriculture in Laos as well as working for a farm school in Basel for ethical consciousness. Studying early childhood education at New York University, Siena knew her experience with education would affect Seeds of Africa. Growing up, she split her time between Cambridge, MA and Basel, Switzerland and currently resides in New York City.

**SHAWNA HAMILTON**  
*Administration &  
Fundraising Coordinator*

Shawna Hamilton has been an advocate for numerous volunteer organizations that focus on children, education and mentoring. Her work with Seeds of Africa started one day over pizza and conversation about Ethiopia and the issues the country faces with education. Through this discussion with Atti, Shawna realized that it was her calling to become an integral part of this organization. Over the past year, Shawna has been working on all aspects of designing the operations and infrastructural components of Seeds. Shawna is passionate about service, public policy, and education! After working several years in the global affairs division of a prestigious financial services firm, she has decided to work full time on Seeds. Shawna is a native of California and graduated in 2006 with a degree in International Business. She is pursuing a Masters in Public Administration in New York.

**SARA REDEN**  
*Design & Production  
Coordinator*

Greatly influenced by her travels, Sara Reden has always wanted to be part of an international organization, particularly one focused on education. Sara got started in not-for-profit work during her university days at UC Santa Barbara, volunteering in a community garden. This experience motivated her to follow her dream through Seeds of Africa. Since moving to New York City almost 3 years ago, Sara has been inspired by cityscapes and music. She began to pursue a career in creative services ranging from photography to production services for independent record labels. With this knowledge, she has found a way to utilize her skills with the Foundation, becoming involved with design and production in addition to being an integral part in development and implementation of Seeds of Africa.

**MAGGIE SANDS**  
*Public Relations &  
Marketing Coordinator*

Maggie Sands' devotion to charitable causes was instilled in her at an early age by her mother, who is deeply involved in local charities. Studying economics at the University of Illinois, Maggie became particularly interested with public policy in sub-Saharan Africa. Maggie worked with neglected and abused children through her university, where she volunteered for a national children's rights association, CASA ( Court appointed Special Advocate Association). In addition to mentoring at-risk youth, Maggie organized several successful fund-raising events for the group. Through her worldwide travels working as a model for international designers, she came to the conclusion that education has the widest implications for creating a sustainable future. Maggie was searching for an organization that involved both education and children, and found the perfect fit with Seeds of Africa. She is currently finishing her studies at the Zicklin School of Business, at Baruch College, and resides in New York City.



Seeds of Africa students with Genet Damtew, Head of Operations Nazareth



Seeds of Africa is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

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